

Now that Paul had been justified by his faith, as in the case of Abraham, he experienced seven God-given Graces:

1. Reconciliation – Peace with God (chapter 5).
2. Emancipation – Freedom from Sin (chapter 6).
3. Realization – Freedom from curse of the Law – the justified living with the Sin nature (chapter 7).
4. Victory – Life in the power of the Holy Spirit (chapter 8).
  - a. Chapters 9 – 11 are parenthetical regarding Paul's heart and Israel.
5. Service – the transformation of service to Christ (chapter 12).
6. Responsibility – how the justified in Christ benefits our nation and neighbors (chapter 13).
7. The law of God's love through the justified unifies the saints (chapters 14 – 16).
  - a. Receiving one another with compassion (chapter 14).
  - b. Building one another without being judgmental (chapter 15).
  - c. Supporting one another as Christ support us (chapter 16).

This is the approximate outline I wish to follow. The important thing here is that Paul has written this masterful epistle on the basis of what had happened in his heart. Romans also reveals the tremendous organizational skills he had.

We frequently use the Roman's Road when referring to sharing salvation with the unsaved. I would like to say that the Roman's Road takes the sinner from showing his need for Christ to showing him the God-kind of righteousness that he received when he believed on Jesus Christ as Savior.

#### **The first grace – Reconciliation.**

**Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:** Romans 5:1 (King James Version).

**"...being justified..."** (gk = aor pas of dikaioo). Lenski calls this tense forensic. That is, this act of God upon the believer had a beginning – at the point of his receiving Christ as Savior – and going on from there forever. There is no interruption of this justification. Later on in ch 8 Paul makes the grand declaration: <sup>31</sup> **What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?** <sup>32</sup> **He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?** <sup>33</sup> **Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.**<sup>1</sup>

This is Positional Truth – Paul and all believers enjoy this special grace and it can never be snatched from us. It was a term used in classical Greek to denote acquittal. In

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<sup>1</sup> Romans 8:31-33 (King James Version)

the LXX the same sense was used with the suggestion of being blameless or pure (see [Psalm 73:13](#); [Micah 6:11](#); [7:9](#)). The sense of acquittal is found in [Exod 23:7](#); [Deut 25:1](#); [Isa 5:23](#). So being justified is the cornerstone of the believers right to a relationship with the Lord. Were it not for this declaration – we would still be on the outside, condemned in our sins – lost forever.

**Peace.** (gk = eirene + echo durative present).

Lenski is too good to pass up here: “...***The participle is causal: "since we have been declared righteous," causal as introducing the effect. The cause is objective and outside of us, for God in heaven on his judgment seat made this declaration in regard to us; the effect is subjective, within us, the reaction that should follow in our hearts: "peace let us go on having, and let us go on boasting," etc....***”<sup>2</sup> This is the power of Positional Truth – the fact that no one can take this away from us. It’s a heaven-bound relationship with our Heavenly Father. OK – let us do the word study on **eirene – peace** now that we know that this grace is ours forever. It is the opposite of WAR – yes! Before we were at war with God – now we are at peace. It’s that simple. It denotes the lack of turmoil – in the case of politics – there are no skirmishes between borders – in our heart, there are no skirmishes between our hearts and God. Yes, there is a struggle but we need to know that THE WAR IS OVER!

We will see in the seventh chapter that there is a realization of our struggle within with our sin nature but be assured that our Heavenly Father will always deal with us in His Love – not as a wrathful God as many would like to paint Him as.

#### **The Heart at Peace with God Has the Gift of His Love.**

**<sup>2</sup> By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; <sup>4</sup> And patience, experience; and experience, hope: <sup>5</sup> And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. Romans 5:2-5 (King James Version).**

Does that mean that the believer lives a life of complete freedom of struggle? No. There is a struggle but it is not between ourselves and God. God in His loving disposition toward us allows tribulations to come into our lives. But we need to understand that He wants only the best He can offer for us - His glory.

But the path is fraught with obstacles. And these obstacles bring maturity and a full realization that He, indeed, does love us. Look at the road we all travel:

1. Tribulations
2. Patience
3. Experience
4. Hope

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<sup>2</sup> —Lenski New Testament Commentary

5. No shame because the love of God is freely shed in every corner of our hearts. This is the real Romans Road. It isn't just the path to salvation – it is the path to full realization that we *have* been reconciled to God and that He does, indeed, love us.

**This Reconciliation Is Based on the Death and Resurrection of Christ.**

**<sup>6</sup> For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. <sup>10</sup> For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.**  
Romans 5:6-10 (King James Version)

This is the glorious fact – that this reconciliation was designed and available to all sinners while they were enemies of God. This is the war I was referring to earlier. The war is over!! I can picture in my mind the end of World War 1 and 2. IT'S OVER!! Was the cry. All of America and the allies rejoiced in unison. Well, for the sinner who believes in Christ – THE WAR IS OVER!!!



Paul paints a wonderful picture here in verse 8. Imagine the Hope diamond. It has a deep clear blue hue to it. The brilliance is accentuated by lights especially positioned to bring out all the facets of the diamond. This is the force of the word “commendeth” in our text. Literally, when God wanted to put His love on display, He could think of no other way than to put His Son on the Cross!

What a picture of His Love! We were enemies – we as a nation of sinners spit on the Precious Son. Lashed Him until His back was ripped to pieces. And then we put Him on the Cross the cruellest of executions. But the real story here is that it was a showcase of God's Love!! God so loved the World that He showed this love by offering His Son up as the ultimate sacrifice for the World's sins.

Paul experienced this war in his heart and knew of the Peace that came when he finally said “Yes Lord.”

**This Justification Which Brings Peace Is  
Freely Given to All Who Believe in Christ.**

**<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. <sup>15</sup> But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. <sup>16</sup> And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.**

**<sup>17</sup> For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they**

**which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)<sup>18</sup> Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. Romans 5:14-18 (King James Version)**

**The Reign of Death in Adam.** I have often asked this question: “Why me? Why do I have to pay for the Sin of Adam?” Yes, this may be very presumptuous of me but I have to admit in my frustration with my sinful condition I do ask that question. Do you think I could have done better than Adam? That really is NOT the question. What applies here is that God could have punished Adam with death and started all over again – He did NOT. He decided, instead, to Reconcile sinful, condemned, dying man to Himself. The problem is (in my mind) that were He start all over again, how long would it be before the same Sinful act of a creature he created be repeated. Lucifer was the Morning Star, the son of the dawn<sup>3</sup> – he sinned, Adam was the precious creation of His own image and he sinned. No, the wonderful Solution was that this whole question was going to be forever resolved by the Free Gift – the gift of Redemption and hence these Graces we are studying in this series. Can we peak around the corner a bit and see that although the effect of Adam’s sin was far reaching, much more so, the Free Gift was overflowing in its effect. I like the way the **Amplified** treats this verse (15). I’m going to take some liberty in emphasis to make my point:

**“But God’s free gift is not at all to be compared to the trespass [His grace is out of all proportion to the fall of man]....”**

Let’s stop right here! We (make that ‘I’) make a big issue out of how Adam “did us in” by sinning. How dare he!! Look at the mess he got us all in. But wait! What case does Paul make here? Just this – the Sin of Adam pales in comparison with the Free Gift of God’s Grace to the point that the difference in effect is *immense*.<sup>1 4</sup> So, as bad as the reign of Death through Adam’s sin is, the comparison with Death and the Free Gift pales in significance.

**For if many died through one man’s falling away (his lapse, his offense), much more profusely did God’s grace and the free gift [that comes] through the undeserved favor of the one Man Jesus Christ abound and overflow to and for [the benefit of] many. Romans 5:15 (Amplified Bible).**

So, the wonderful Gift is that upon the sinner calling upon the Lord to save him – that literally is what happens. The once overwhelming reign of Death comes to an end and

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<sup>3</sup> [Isaiah 12:3-20](#) esp. NIV.

<sup>4</sup> Combine the Dative of *pollo* “much” and comparative adverb of *mallon* – “more” gives the picture of overflowing – hence the Amplified’s translation, “much more profusely.”

Reign of Life in Christ begins – no small matter. I cannot make enough of this transformation of status. [As much as the grip of Death may have hold of man – the Reach of Christ is all the more.](#) To the

**...the true bias of this eternal death versus Life issue is in favor of man!!**

point that we really must consider the phrase “For God so loved the *world*...” the true bias of this eternal death versus Life issue is in favor of man!! To be sure, man can reject this Life through active unbelief but the bias is there – God has forever aligned Himself with man. Listen to this thrilling passage from Hebrews chapter 2: <sup>14</sup> **“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.”<sup>5</sup>**

This is relationship that NO angel can claim – we are His children forever. We are His flesh and blood – Jesus Christ is flesh and blood and that relationship can never be changed by any creature. Now, let's go back to our passage in Romans 5:16ff.

**The Reign of Life, in Jesus Christ.** Paul develops this grand comparison to the next level – true the condemnation of death has an effect on all men. But the theme here is that the Reign of Life in Christ is *much more* profound. Here Paul contrasts the two words that have such a great effect on man – condemnation and justification of life. In Adam man is condemned but in Christ man is justified. MacArthur calls the condemnation one dimensional whereas the justification of life in Christ multi-dimensional.<sup>2</sup>

There was just one dimension to our inheritance in Adam – Death. There are many dimensions to our inheritance in Christ and the scope of this lesson is just not adequate to elaborate this point. But we must return to the main point of this lesson – that as a result of our justification in Christ we have been reconciled – we receive Peace. This peace is just one of many facets of our new reign of life that we have in Christ. It is truly an abundant life.

Can we return to the heart of Paul? Paul has so much he wants to share with the Roman Christians and the best way he can do this is to show them that the war was truly over – this murderer of Christians was now at peace with the Giver of life. The Gift of Life has completely eclipsed the sentence of Death. All this from the Grace of God who gives freely all the blessings because believing man has been justified through his faith in Jesus Christ.

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<sup>5</sup> Hebrews 2:14-17 (New International Version).

Begin endnotes.

1. “Πολλὸ μᾶλλον is used already in v. 10 and = “much more” (literally, “with or by much more”). See how τὸ χρισμα is expanded in order to show how immensely it exceeds Adam’s fall and the damage it wrought; it is described as “the grace of God and the gift in connection with grace of the one man Jesus Christ.” —Lenski New Testament Commentary

2. “The one-dimensional result of Adam’s one act was death, whereas the result of Christ’s one act is life, which is multidimensional. Christ not only offers life but abundant life, life that abounds (v. 15; cf. John 10:10). The redeemed in Christ not only receive abundant life but are given righteousness as a gift (cf. 2 Cor. 5:21). They reign in that righteous life with their Lord and Savior. They possess the very righteous, glorious, and eternal life of God Himself.” —MacArthur New Testament Commentary, The